



HB 6388

State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

REPRESENTATIVE FRED CAMILLO
ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY-FIRST DISTRICT

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RANKING MEMBER
COMMERCE COMMITTEE

MEMBER
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Testimony

In Opposition To

6388
HB 6380, An Act Concerning The Budget For The Biennium Ending June 30, 2013

Finance Committee
Monday, March 7, 2011

Good morning Senator Daily, Representative Widlitz, Senator Roraback, Representative Williams, and members of the Finance Committee:

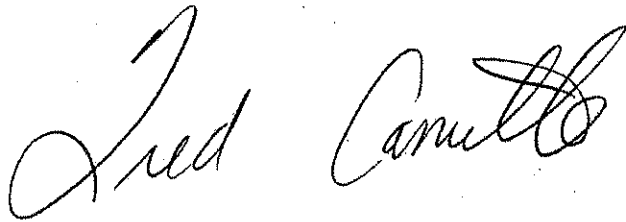
I am here today to ask that you oppose HB 6380. HB 6380 cuts \$83 million in funding from the Uncompensated Care and DSH pools, imposes a 5.5 percent tax on hospitals, and makes a number of other reductions and changes to the Medicaid program that will negatively affect every hospital and devastate some like our community one in Greenwich.

Gov. Malloy, in his speech before the General Assembly in February, spoke about "protecting the safety net" for Connecticut citizens. This budget proposal does the exact opposite. **Greenwich Hospital will lose an additional \$6.7 million due to implementation of the tax and elimination of the hospital pools.** This will translate into a loss of jobs at the hospital as well as the deletion of health programs that the community has come to rely on. Moreover, with the closure of United Hospital in Port Chester, NY, Greenwich Hospital has had to pick up the burden that the missing coverage caused. In addition, we are also the hospital of choice for several communities in Westchester County thus providing a commerce component to this equation some may be overlooking.

Greenwich Hospital would be among the worst hit by this budget proposal, and coupled with the passage of healthcare reform, this adds another financial burden that will put our ability to continue to deliver excellent care to our patients in question as there would be less professional staff and a reduction in community programs and clinics that will, in the end, catch up with us in one way or another.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today and I do hope this committee will oppose this bill so that we aren't paying for a bad decision, both in a health and fiscal sense, down the road.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Fred Camillo". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Fred Camillo
State Representative
151st District

